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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Staffordshire Pottery Works

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Lincoln Lore

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Recent Acquisitions

Editor's Note: The Foundation's staff is constantly alert to acquire additional historical material to augment the collection in the library-museum. With the passing of the years (since Lincoln's death) original Lincoln items are getting quite scarce and command exceptionally high prices; yet, in spite of these difficulties, worthwhile exhibit pieces, rare books, pamphlets, and manuscript materials are occasionally placed on the market. Such items are avidly sought by a dozen institutions and perhaps as many private collectors. Fortunately, the Foundation's library-museum has been able to secure a great many of the rarities that occasionally make their appearance. This issue of *Lincoln Lore* is devoted to a discussion of some of our recent acquisitions.

Miniature Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

One of the major items of Lincolniana, acquired recently by the Foundation, is a miniature portrait of President Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864. It is assumed that this miniature was painted from life. A statement made by J. Staal of the firm of Norman of London, 573 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., and dated January 29, 1943, follows: "This miniature of Abraham Lincoln was painted from life in the year 1864 by Daniel Huntington, N. A." The miniature is encased in a metal frame, and on the reverse side is the inscription "President Lincoln—painted by Daniel Huntington 1864." A study of the portrait reveals that it bears very little resemblance to any of Lincoln's photographs.

The provenance of the item is fairly well defined. The miniature was formerly the property of Lieutenant George M. Parsons, 55th Pennsylvania regiment, said to have been a personal friend of President Lincoln. Upon the death of Lieutenant Parsons the miniature portrait was inherited by his daughter, Miss Ella Parsons of Philadelphia. Prior to the death of Miss Parsons, the miniature became the property of Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke Walling of Brookline, Massachusetts. For over fifteen years the miniature was exhibited by the John Hay library of Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island. This year the Foundation purchased the miniature from Mr. and Mrs. Walling.

The miniature measures 2 x 2½ inches. The portrait painted on ivory, depicts Lincoln turned to the sitter's left, wearing a business suit. Lincoln's hair is painted dark with some gray. The artist used subdued tints, with a greenish-gray background that is characteristic of his other work.

The history of miniature painting is interesting. The very early artists painted their small scale portraits on vellum until, in the 17th century, a method of painting on thin leaves of ivory affixed to cardboard with gum was introduced. The United States is best represented in this field by portrait painters J. S. Copley, Gilbert Stuart and C. W. Peale. E. G. Malbone (1777-1807), however, was the first great American miniaturist. *The Encyclopedia Americana* and *The Encyclopedia Britannica* mention some twenty leading miniature painters of the United States. The name of Daniel Huntington does not appear in these lists.

The name of Daniel Huntington (1816-1906) does appear in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (Hibben to Larkin) on pages 412 to 413; however, none of his Lincoln portraits are mentioned in the D A B sketch. During the Lincoln administration, Huntington was an artist of great eminence. Except for the years 1869-77,

he was President of the National Academy from 1862 to 1891. He undoubtedly was in a position to request President Lincoln to sit for a portrait.

The introduction of photography greatly lessened the demand for small portraits. However, it was not long before the superior artistic merit of the miniature began to awaken in discriminating persons a new interest in this type of painting, and in the latter part of the 19th Century an important revival of the art took place. Miniature painting still flourishes, although popular demand has relegated it to a comparatively minor place.

In Emanuel Hertz's two-volume biography, "Abraham Lincoln A New Portrait," Horace Liverwright, Inc., 1931, three of Daniel Huntington's Lincoln portraits are used as illustrations. The three original portraits are exhibited in the Prince Albert Museum of Bombay, India, The Union League Club of New York City, and the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York.

In the files of our museum-library there is a small folder of material on Daniel Huntington. This folder contains a photograph of a Lincoln painting by Huntington. The 1932 correspondence which accompanies the photograph indicates that the portrait of Lincoln, along with one of Mrs. Lincoln, was for sale at \$8,500.

Staffordshire Figurine "A. Lincoln"

During the American Civil War there was a great deal of interest in England in the outcome of the conflict. In most cases the sentiment was pro-Union. This interest was manifested by the Staffordshire Pottery Works in the production of two figurines; John Brown and Abraham Lincoln. However, these were not the first Americans to be so depicted as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were produced for the European as well as the American market.

The public's intense sympathy with the North was also shown by the many figures made by the Stafford-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A miniature portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864.



A Staffordshire figurine bearing the name "A. Lincoln" (15½" high x 11" wide) made in England about the period of the Civil War. The Sixteenth President is depicted, according to the notions of the British, as a reigning monarch.

shire potteries of the chief characters in Harriett Beecher Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which were manufactured immediately after 1852 when that work first made its appearance.

The Lincoln figurine bearing the name "A. Lincoln" (although it bears no resemblance to the Sixteenth President) was made in England during the period of the Civil War. Lincoln is depicted astride a horse, with all the accouterments, according to the notions of the British, as a reigning monarch. This figurine is quite rare. Only two others are known to be located in the collections of Lincoln College at Lincoln, Illinois, and the Illinois State Historical Library of Springfield, Illinois. However, the figurine is not unknown to collectors of Staffordshire. The figurine "A. Lincoln" is discussed and illustrated in Thomas Balston's book, "Staffordshire Portrait Figures of The Victorian Age," published in 1960 by the Charles T. Branford Company, Newton, Massachusetts.

The figurine acquired by The Lincoln National Life Foundation was just recently purchased from a dealer who makes frequent trips to England in search of art objects, Civil War manuscripts and items of Lincolniana.

An Appraisal of the Property of Lincoln's Brother-in-Law

Sarah Lincoln, the sister of Abraham Lincoln, married Aaron Grigsby on August 2, 1826, and on January 20, 1828, in her twenty-first year, she died in childbirth. On September 11, 1830, Aaron Grigsby married Margaret Miller. He died a year later and his will was probated February 10, 1833. Josiah Crawford (who lent Ramsey's "Life of Washington" to Abraham Lincoln) and James A. Brown acted as appraisers of the estate, which was valued at \$269.78 plus notes for the amount of \$16.47. The signatures of both men are affixed to the document.

This remarkable original document, dated August 27, 1833 has just recently been acquired by the Lincoln National Life Foundation. It is titled, "The Appraisement of the Property of Aaron Grigsby Deceased Spencer County, Ind. . . ." Without a doubt, many of the items

listed were once owned or used by Lincoln's sister. Some of the items (42 entries) in which she might have had a personal interest follow:

| | |
|--|---------|
| 1 Lot of cupboard ware | \$ 4.36 |
| 2 Beds and bedding | 18.68 |
| 1 Bundle of table cloths and pillow slips .. | 1.00 |
| 1 Bed and bedding | 9.97 |
| 1 Lot of bed clothing | 16.37 |
| 1 Lot of thread | 0.25 |
| 1 Looking glass | 1.00 |
| 1 Lot of Books | 1.50 |
| 1 Lot of old irons | .25 |
| 1 Lot of copper ware | 3.18 |
| 6 chears 1 table 1 cradle | 2.00 |
| 1 wheel 1 Reel | 3.00 |
| 1 tray and Sieve | .50 |

Mason Brayman Tells His Daughter A Lincoln Story

A recently acquired letter in the Foundation files by Mason Brayman (1813-1895) (who was a newspaper editor, lawyer, Union soldier, government official and friend of Lincoln) addressed to his daughter "My Darling Ditty" provides a new Lincoln anecdote. Brayman was Governor of Iowa Territory from 1876 to 1880. While in Boise City, Brayman apparently discouraged and disconsolate, wrote his daughter on April 22, 1877 that "It is only a fear, for you know it requires the stimulus of pressing occasion to bring me out, and I am afraid I shall earn Mr. Lincoln's *real* compliment to Joe Hooker, when he said to me 'There's Fremont, and some others, they are uneasy and impatient, and make me trouble, but I like Joe, for when he has *nothing* to do, he does *nothing*.'"

Presidential Letters and Documents

With the acquisition of a three page letter written by George Washington, the Foundation has a complete file of the Presidents including Lyndon Johnson. The Washington letter, dated November 20, 1778, is addressed "To Major Talmage of the Dragoons, Bedford." The letter, while not necessarily franked, bears the statement "On Public Service."

The letter follows:

Head Quarters Fish
Kill Novem. 29th 1778

Sir,

I am favoured with your letter of this date with one from C..... His account has the appearance of a distinct and good one, and make me desirous of a continuance of his correspondence. At the same time, I am at a loss how it can be conveniently carried on as he is so scrupulous respecting the channel of conveyance. At the station, to which your regiment is going, it would be too circuitous and dilatory to have his communications pass through you. I wish you could fix upon some officer at Danbury, in whose discretion your correspondent would be willing to confide; or perhaps the matter might be so managed, that his communications might be conveyed through that officer without his knowing from whom they came. If this can be done, you will make the proper arrangements and give me notice. But any way, you can fall upon, in which the end can be answered with expedition will be agreeable to me.

If you think you can really depend on C.....'s fidelity — I should be glad to have an interview with him myself, in which I would endeavor to put the mode of corresponding upon just a footing, that even if his letters were to fall into the enemy's hands, he would have nothing to fear on that account.

I am sorry, I cannot find you the money, you request, for bearer; all the specie in my possession is with my baggage, from which, I shall be for some days separated. But, if I am not mistaken, there is a sum about equal to what is now wanted in the hands of Col. Hanly, whom I have directed in the letter accompanying this, to pay what he may have to you. You will apply to him accordingly.

Specie is so scarce an article and so difficult to be procured, that we must use great economy with it. If Continental money can be made to answer the purpose, in part, it will be a very desirable circumstance, and facilitate the necessary supplies.

I am Sir

Your most Obedt
Servant

G. WASHINGTON

P. S. — If you cannot arrange the matter at once in some other way, you may remain awhile where you are to carry on the correspondence.

Document Relative To Lincoln's Assassination

The Foundation's manuscripts relative to Lincoln's assassination have been enhanced with the addition of a War Department document signed by G. C. Thomas, Notary. This order dated April 28, 1865, is for the payment of a fee of \$1.80 to G. C. Thomas for notarial service in

STAPLES-500
Kottler, W. H. K. S.

DEALERS
M. J.

Sculptors-5
(Statuettes)

